Case Bill Strips Secrecy From Radio Free Europe

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Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.) announced yesterday that he will introduce legislation Monday to bring Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty under congressional scrutiny by substituting direct appropriations for secret funding of the two organizations.

The bill would provide an initial $30 million grant to the two stations, nominally run by private groups but widely known to be principally bankrolled by the Central Intelligence Agency. Case said his bill, which would amend the U.S. Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, would prohibit the use of any other government funds for the two stations.

CLIFFORD CASE
. . . sponsors RFE reform

"During the last 20 years," Case said, "several hundred million dollars in U.S. government funds have been expended from secret CIA budgets to pay almost totally for the costs of these two radio stations broadcasting to Eastern Europe." He added:

"In the last fiscal year alone, over $30,000,000 was provided by CIA as a direct government subsidy; yet at no time was Congress asked or permitted to carry out its traditional constitutional role of approving the expenditure."

Both Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty attempt to raise funds from corporations and foundations, Case said, but the bulk of their operating budgets come from direct CIA subsidies although the "justification for covert funding has lessened over the years."